Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*:

(*a*) 268 (including cultivating owners and varam tenants).

(*b*) 1½ to 8 paras per para of seed sowing land.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know the actual output last year? This area was covered with water last year.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It was about 13,000 and odd paras.

BANANAS AND YAM—CONTROL OF

5. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture had not recommended to Government to control bananas and yam;

(*b*) if so, when;

(*c*) whether Government were not requested by individuals in the State to issue control orders in the above;

(*d*) when Government were pleased to issue orders;

(*e*) whether they are aware of cart loads of consignments of these products to Vaniamkulam and other parts of the British Malabar on their way being returned;

(*f*) if an answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to realise the heavy cost, trouble and inconveniences the subjects are and were put to by the belated orders;

(*g*) will Government be pleased to take note and take appropriate action of an exemplary nature in this matter?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 21st July 1943.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The order came into force on 5th September 1943.

(*e*) No such incidents were brought to notice.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*e*).

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the Director of Food Supplies consulted the producers of bananas before promulgating these orders?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Some enquiries were made both among producers and merchants. Of course producers objected and in spite of the objection it was thought that some ban was necessary.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: In regard to Mattancheri and Ernakulam areas the people are very much affected by the control because Travancore bananas cannot come here.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: In fact the Mattancheri and Ernakulam areas have been benefited by this order because we imported a large quantity of banana from northern taluks.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Did the Director of Food Supplies consult the Food Advisory Council before passing the orders?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Then what is the use of this Advisory Council?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There was then no Food Advisory Council.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: By bananas it means a special variety of plantain. Is there no obstruction to transport other plantains?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Do the Government know that other plantains are also obstructed by the officers?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No. Government will enquire into it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Is there any objection while issuing these notices to specify in future that banana plantains alone are not to be transported?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: That has been made clear. The order refers only to banana plantain.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Is there any objection to make it very clear so that the illiterate Excise peons may not misunderstand it?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is no objection, we will make it clear.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware of the present price of bananas in the Mattancheri Bazaar, this week or last week and how it compares with that on the 5th of September 1943?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* One fruit was selling from 6 pies to one anna a week back.

Mr. President: Order, Order. This is not occasion for the Hon'ble Member to give information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price on the 5th September?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price on the day of the Control Order?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The price was more. It was over one anna.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* And at present.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is less.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: കൊച്ചിക്കണയന്തൂർ താലൂക്കിനെ ഇതിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കണമെന്നു വല്ല മെമ്പർമാരും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കു എഴുതിയയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ തീരുമാനം എന്തായിരുന്നു?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was stated that it was not necessary.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the price which was stated to be less was ascertained? How was the information ascertained that the price was less.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* By enquiry.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Enquiry you made?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* By the local officers.

Mr A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it by a written report or verbal or actual buying experience?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sometimes by written reports and sometimes by oral.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* In the present case, whether it is by written reports or by experience or by verbal reports?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I can't say definitely.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether Koorka and Kachal come under the definition of yam?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

ABSENCE OF PADDY OR RICE IN THE FAIR PRICE SHOPS

6. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the complete absence of paddy or rice in all Fair Price Shops at Vadakkancheri on 26th Chingam 1119;

(*b*) the complete absence of kerosene oil on the 24th of Chingam onwards;

(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative will they be pleased to state who are responsible for this failure of supplies;

(*d*) is it not a fact that the order to issue rations for three days from 24th to 26th of Chingam inclusive to all was actually communicated only on the 27th and 28th of Chingam;

(*e*) will Government be pleased to realise the widespread heartburning of having to starve on "Onam" days, and take adequate action in this matter?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) There was no dearth of kerosene oil on the dates referred to.

(*c*) No answer is called for in view of the answers to (*a*) and (*b*).

(*d*) No. The order was communicated on 24th Chingam itself.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will the Government be pleased to assure that the orders said to have been communicated to the subordinates were actually received on the 24th.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It might have been received on the 25th and we issued it on the 24th.

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